



Patent Technology Center 1700

Facsimile Transmission

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Fax Notes:

Attached are proposed amendments to Serial No. 09/936,064 that I feel are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance for your review and approval. The proposed changes incorporate claim 5 into claim 1, claim 12 into claim 10, and correct clarity problems with regard to the reference numerals in the claims. As this application is a two-month amended case, I need a response ASAP but no later than December 7, 2004. Please call me at the above number with any question and to confirm that you have received this fax.

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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SERIAL NO. 09/936,064

Claim 1 would be replaced by the following:

1. (Currently amended) A process for laying a cylindrical pipe in a trench (T) open at the top, starting from a section of flattened flexible tubular preform (1, 9), capable of being made round but not radially expansible by inflation due to the effect of internal pressure, [and] wherein the wall of [which] the preform (1, 9) includes a filamentary reinforcement (2) surrounding an inner sealing skin (10), characterized in that, on the one hand, this laying process is carried out without the wall of the preform (1, 9) being turned over on itself[;], and, on the other hand, the process is carried out in the following manner:

- a) the section of preform (1) is brought close to the trench (T);
- b) the reinforcement (2) is impregnated in situ with a curable resin (11);
- c) the section of resin-impregnated preform ([1]9) still in the flattened state is deposited from the top down into the trench (T);
- d) the section of preform (9) is inflated pneumatically, after having closed off the ends thereof, so as to give it a cylindrical shape;
- e) the resin (11) is made to cure by heating, by the Joule effect, by electrical resistance elements (21) incorporated into the reinforcement (2);
wherein operations (b) and (c) [being] are carried out continuously.

Claim 2 would be replaced by the following:

2. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the section of preform (9) is coated with a protective tubular sheath (12)[,] after its reinforcement (2) has been impregnated with the curable resin (11)[,] and before the preform (9) is deposited in the trench (T).

Claim 3 would be amended as follows:

line 2, -- (11) -- would be inserted after "resin".

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Claim 5 would be canceled (incorporated into claim 1).

Claim 10 would be replaced by the following:

10. (Currently amended) A plant used to lay a cylindrical pipe in a trench (T), starting from a section of flattened flexible tubular preform (1, 9), capable of being made round but not radially expansible by inflation due to the effect of internal pressure, [and] wherein the wall of [which] the preform (1, 9) is provided with a filamentary reinforcement (2) surrounding an inner sealing skin (10), this laying operation being carried out by the plant without turning the wall of the section of preform (1, 9) over on itself, characterized in that [it] the plant comprises a mobile assembly (4-5) capable of moving along a support (S) adjacent the trench (T), and comprising:]

a container (4) for storing the [folded] flattened section of preform (1);

means (41) for progressively pulling said section (1) out of the container (4);

a storage tank (50) containing a curable resin (11);

means (70) for continuously and progressively impregnating the filamentary reinforcement (2) with the curable resin (11), [this being done continuously and progressively] as [it] the section (1) is [being] extracted from the container (4);

means (8[:], 81) for continuously depositing, [still continuously, and] from the top down, the section of resin-impregnated preform (9) [prefurnished with resin] into the trench (T) [and] while still in the flattened state;

means (90-91[:], 92) for blowing compressed air into the section of preform (9) and for inflating [it] the section of preform (9), so as to give it a cylindrical shape, after it has been deposited in the trench (T);
and

means (93) [to] for electrically heat [cure] curing the resin (11) by the Joule effect via resistance heating elements (21) incorporated into the reinforcement (2).

Claim 12 would be canceled (incorporated into claim 10).

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Claim 13 would be amended as follows:

- line 1, "one of claims 10 to 12" would be deleted after "claimed in" and -- claim 10 -- would be
inserted after "claimed in"; and
- line 2, "it" would be deleted after "that" and -- the plant -- would be inserted after "that".